

20 March 1973

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Visit with Ralph Preston, Staff Assistant, House Committee on Appropriations

1. At 1000 hours on 20 March 1973, held a discussion with Ralph Preston about the desires of Chairman Mahon and the Committee regarding the appearance of the Director of Central Intelligence before the House Committee on Appropriations (Intelligence Subcommittee), on the Community and CIA budgets for FY 1974.

2. The tentative date for the hearing(s) is early May. The DCI would probably appear in the morning (10-12:30) to discuss in broad terms the Community programs, his role, and his objectives as DCI. In the afternoon (2 - 4) the DCI would talk to the CIA budget.

3. When asked about the Committee's plans concerning ASD(I) and the other program managers, Mr. Preston advised that NSA and the manager of the Air Force special project would be called but was noncommittal on ASD(I), remarking that if Dr. Hall appeared he would probably talk to the Defense Subcommittee.

4. We discussed in broad terms the DCI involvement in budgetary control of the Intelligence Community, including the need for him to participate in the apportionment process and to review current operating plans and issues. Preston commented, "to do otherwise would be an exercise in futility." He stated that the Chairman always supported the idea that the DCI "take charge." The Committee is more comfortable if they feel that proper attention is being given to the Community coordination responsibility.

5. From the general conversation, it would appear that the Committee is proceeding rather slowly with its work. The staff is very busy and it is difficult to get the members together for meetings. This is especially true of the Intelligence Subcommittee since the members are the most senior and have other Committee responsibilities.

6. I briefed Mr. Preston on the general procedures we are now considering, including increased activity of the IRAC, and the expected beneficial results from issue studies to be forthcoming from the ad hoc team efforts.

7. Mr. Preston indicated that he would be free to come to CIA to be briefed on the Community and CIA FY 1974 budgets during the Easter recess (19 - 30 April). This information has been passed on to Mr. Briggs.

8. In attendance at the meeting were Mr. Ralph Preston,

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cc: ✓ O/LC [redacted]
D/PPB
D/DCI/IC